



St. Lawrence Primary School

La Grande Route de St Laurent
St Lawrence
Jersey
JE3 1NG

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17th January 2023

Dear Parents,

It is lovely to be back in school again and working with your children.

Literacy and reading

The children are successfully following the 'Read, Write, Inc.' phonics programme and, after checking their quick recall of all the Speed Sounds Set 1, they are now working in two groups. Mrs Bugbird is teaching the smaller group on Ditties and I am checking and teaching the recognition and writing of all of Speed Sounds Set 1 and teaching the children to blend short consonant-vowel-consonant words like 'sat', 'sit', 'mad', 'dim', 'sad' etc. The children will refer to this as Fred Talk. Please could the children in the Ditties group bring their reading folder every day. My group will bring home each day the Speed Sound sheet which they have completed to keep you more informed.

Every Thursday morning, our Reception Children will visit the school library to choose a book to bring home and share with you. Please could you ensure that your child has their book in their reading folders every Thursday so that they can benefit from these sessions – thank you. We also do handwriting on a Thursday as well as during Read Writ Inc lessons. If you wish to help your child, then reviewing the pure sounds and learning to hold a pencil correctly and form letters correctly would be useful for them. The pure sounds are on many places on You Tube and a picture of correct pencil hold will be sent home this week.

Numeracy

We will be following the White Rose Maths scheme this year. The children will be working at one of three levels according to their present ability so that they are both supported and challenged. At present the children are working on more or less than a given number, simple addition and subtraction at their appropriate level and lots of different work on measurement. Helping your child form the numbers correctly and know one more or one less than numbers to 10 would be good.

'In the Moment Planning'

Much of our learning will come from the interests of children we have observed 'In the Moment', for example we have looked at fallen twigs and branches after the high winds and we have measured rain water and waded in puddles after the heavy rainfall. Other topic work will be drawn out of Traditional Tales that the children are choosing, such as "The Three Little Pigs" and "The Gingerbread Man". We will have a Woodland Walk this term and a visit to a local Jersey Heritage property. We have plenty of staff in school, so we will not be asking for helpers.

Independent Activities

We have a wide range of resources in the classroom that the children are free to access independently. There will also be a range of teacher-directed activities. The children will have access to the outdoor area every day so please ensure that your child has a puddle suit and wellington boots (all named) – we like to go out in all weathers! We observe the children in their play and look for ways we can add to it or enhance the way they are accessing resources to progress their learning. A recent focus has been to

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ask the children using the Writing Table to do at least 3 different processes (sticking, writing, labelling, curling, cutting, colouring, snipping, folding, etc) before naming their work to show in the Show Me tray. Hopefully you will notice the development in the creative pieces which they bring home daily!

Other activities

We are very lucky in Reception to have the wonderful Mrs Bugbird, who is a trained Forest School Leader. Our Forest School will be accessed in small groups in the afternoon. More information about these types of activities can be found at www.forestschoools.com.

Our PE days will be Mondays with one of the Sports Bug team, and Fridays, when we will have a dance lesson with Dragos from Step By Step Dance school and Wednesday in small swimming groups which will change each term. Please could your child come into school on those days in their PE kits (either shorts or tracksuit bottoms, depending on the weather). Every day the children have access to outdoor play equipment such as balls, hula hoops, and stilts, which aids their physical development. Could your child have their hair tied back each day, so that they can access all the curriculum and activities without difficulty.

Other reminders

Now that it is colder, please could extra clothes go on under the uniform if it is needed.

Please could all coats, jumpers, mudsuits, snack pots, etc be labelled so that they can be returned to the right person quickly and easily.

Finally, please could all personal toys, however small, be left with you at drop off since personal toys in school are causing a lot of distress at playtimes.

Mrs Bugbird and I are really enjoying working with your children this term. There are lots of house points being given out to reward Independence, Responsibility and Success, not forgetting Kindness!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to come and see me or to email me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Turner

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